

German Armies in France in Full Retreat;
Hotly Pursued; Abandon Guns and Stores
Wilson Sends Peace Inquiry to Berlin

DISCUSSION OF PEACE
WAITS ON REPLY OF
RULER OF GERMANY

Inquiry from President Before Kaiser
Several Days Now as to His Re-
ported Willingness to Discuss Terms.

ALLIES DEFINE ATTITUDE FOR BRYAN

Oscar Straus Active in Mediation Move ment Ori-
ginating at James Speyer's Dinner
for Count von Bernstorff.

Washington, Sept. 12.—Emperor William has had
under consideration for several days an informal inquiry
from the United States government as to whether Germany
desires to discuss terms of peace with her foes.

Up to a late hour no reply had come, but on its tenor
depends to some extent whether or not the informal peace
movement inaugurated just a week ago to-night can be pur-
sued further with Great Britain, France and Russia.

The inquiry was not a formal one, such as President
Wilson's original tender of good offices, but was an effort
of an official character to determine whether Germany's re-
ported willingness to talk peace was based on fact.

The chronology of the peace movement was revealed
to-night after a canvass of officials, diplomatists and others
directly concerned in the incident.

SEVEN DAYS OF PEACE TALK.

The story of the seven days of peace talk, as told
by some of the principals, is substantially as follows:

Saturday, Sept. 5.—Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador,
dined with James Speyer, the banker, at the latter's residence in New
York. Oscar Straus, American member of the Hague Tribunal and former
Cabinet officer, was present. During the evening, as the conversation
turned to the subject of peace in Europe, the German Ambassador said
that while he had had no advices from his government since leaving Ber-
lin, he recalled a conversation with the Imperial Chancellor there, in which
the latter said he believed the Emperor would be willing to discuss mea-
sures of peace through mediation. Previous to the ambassador's conversa-
tion with the Chancellor Emperor William had already acknowledged
President Wilson's tender of good offices, but had been non-committal as
to its acceptance. Mr. Straus immediately asked the German Ambassador
for permission to repeat the conversation to Secretary Bryan at Wash-
ington. Count von Bernstorff gave his consent.

Sunday, Sept. 6.—Mr. Straus arrived in Washington and went to the
home of Secretary Bryan, where they conferred secretly. The Secretary
communicated later with President Wilson. It was decided to get the
German Ambassador's consent to forward a report of the incident to
Ambassador Gerard for discussion with the German Foreign Office. In
the mean time, Mr. Straus was advised to talk the situation over with the
British and French ambassadors here. He saw each that day.

GERARD BIDDEN SEE KAISER.

Monday, Sept. 7.—The German Ambassador reached Washington and
conferred privately with Mr. Bryan. As a result of the conference the
Secretary cabled Ambassador Gerard to convey to Emperor William an
inquiry from the American government as to whether he desired to con-
firm the statement reported to have been made by him to the Imperial
Chancellor, and repeated by the Chancellor to Count von Bernstorff in
private conversation. Copies of the message to Ambassador Gerard were sent
by Secretary Bryan to Ambassador Page at London and Ambassador Her-
rick at Paris. Meanwhile Mr. Straus had talked with the British and
French ambassadors, both of whom said they could make no definite state-
ment without instructions, as they had heard nothing from their govern-
ments on the subject of peace. They were acquainted by Mr. Straus
with what had occurred at the dinner in New York. Both the French and
British ambassadors reported the incident unofficially to their respective
foreign offices.

BRYAN INFORMS SPRING-RICE.

Tuesday, Sept. 8.—Secretary Bryan told the British Ambassador,
Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, what had occurred in detail, and learned that the
ambassador similarly had made inquiry of his government to learn its
attitude toward peace.

Wednesday, Sept. 9.—Sir Edward Grey discussed with Ambassa-
dor Page the inquiry which the latter had received from Secretary Bryan.
On the same day Sir Edward Grey cabled the British Ambassador here:
That as Great Britain, France and Russia had in the preceding week agreed
to make peace without common consent, the position of the Triple
Entente was unanimous on the question of terms. Sir Edward said what
the powers wanted was a temporary truce, but a permanent peace in
Europe, so that the world could be insured against the sudden outbreak
of war after Germany had recouped herself. The British Foreign Secretary
added, moreover, that England had from the first tried to avoid war and
wanted peace, but before the subject could be considered seriously definite
terms would have to be submitted. Great Britain, Sir Edward pointed out,
would insist that Belgium be fully compensated by Germany for her losses.
This information was communicated to Secretary Bryan by the British
Ambassador.

FRENCH ATTITUDE LIKE BRITISH.

Thursday, Sept. 10.—The French Ambassador called on Secretary Bryan
and, it is understood, discussed the point of view of France. Ambassador
Herick coincidentally reported the wish of France that there might be
peace, but pointed out that until the French had driven the invaders from
their territory and Belgium had been compensated, terms of peace could

FRENCH AEROPLANIST
WHIPS GERMAN IN AIR

Paris, Sept. 12.—News has just
been received here of an exciting
air battle in the vicinity of Troy.
A German aeroplane threw sev-
eral bombs into the city, and a
French machine arose and gave
chase. After a thrilling pursuit
fifty miles, the French aeroplane
overtook the German air craft near
Piney, where an engagement ensued.
The French machine soon secured
the advantage in the fight, and im-
mediately afterward the German
aeroplane was precipitated to earth
and the two officers on board
killed.

Troyes is the capital of the de-
partment of the Aube and formerly
of Champagne. It is on the left
bank of the Seine, ninety miles east
southeast of Paris. The city has
in part a mediæval aspect, owing
to its narrow, crooked streets and
ancient wooden houses. It has
many interesting churches, among
them the Cathedral of St. Pierre,
an imposing edifice begun in the
thirteenth century, but not finished
until three hundred years later. It
has a fine museum and art gal-
lery and a library containing
125,000 volumes. The popula-
tion in 1901 was 53,000.

ITALY AGAIN URGED
TO FIGHT ALLIES

Rome, Sept. 12.—Advances have again
been made by Germany and Austria,
with the object of inducing Italy to
abandon her neutrality, it being urged
that Italy's action might be decisive
for either side.
Austrian naval experts point out that
the Allies, from a naval viewpoint,
have achieved nothing against Austria
since war was declared, and argue that
it is entirely possible that they will
dare to attack the combined naval
forces of Austria and Italy.

PRISON IN CRACOW
FOR SIENKIEWICZ

London, Sept. 12.—A dispatch to "The
Evening News" from Petrograd says
that Henryk Sienkiewicz, the Polish
writer and author of "Quo Vadis," who
recently issued an appeal to the Poles
to support Russia in the war, has been
taken prisoner by the Austrians and
sent to Cracow.
Mr. Sienkiewicz has been living on
his estate in Galicia. He is about
seventy years old, and always has been
hostile to Austria and Germany and
an apostle of a Russo-Polish rapproche-
ment.

FRENCH GUN PUTS
ENEMY IN TERROR

(By Cable to The Tribune.)
London, Sept. 12.—An "Observer"
dispatch from Antwerp says the of-
fensive action by the Belgian army
still continues with great dash and suc-
cess, and the action is becoming far
more extended in Belgium. The heavy
six-inch field guns are doing effective
work.
It was fortunate that the govern-
ment committee just before the out-
break of the war decided in favor of
this French type of weapon. Under its
fire the German troops of the land-
sturm and the Austrian troops become
demoralized. The invaders are slowly
retreating in the direction of Brussels.
Belgian advance guards on protected
motor cars, with quick firers, have al-
ready reached the gates of Louvain,
scattering bands of Uhlans.

DE WET MAY LEAD
CORPS FOR BRITISH

London, Sept. 12.—"The African
World" says that an active movement
is on foot to offer Field Marshal Earl
Kitchener, Secretary of State for War,
a corps of picked British and Dutch
Africaners scouts for use with Field
Marshal French's army, under the com-
mand of General Christian Rudolf De
Wet, the Boer commander who gave
the British so much trouble during the
South African war.

WANTS HOME RULE
TO WAIT END OF WAR

London, Sept. 12.—Lord Lansdowne,
leader of the Unionist Opposition in
the House of Lords, will move on Mon-
day that proceedings upon the home
rule and Welsh disestablishment bills
be suspended during the war.

CROWN PRINCE AND
BROTHER DEAD, SAYS
OSTEND REPORT

London, Sept. 13, 1:32 a. m.—An
Ostend dispatch to the Reuter Tele-
gram Company says:
"Crown Prince Frederick William
and Prince Adalbert of Prussia, the
Emperor's third son, and Prince
Carl of Württemberg are reported to
have died in a hospital at Brussels."

CZAR'S ARMY
ON HEELS OF
AUSTRIANS

Russian Forces, Near San
River, Closely Pursue
Retreating Enemy.

GERMANS TOO LATE
TO AID THEIR ALLIES

Austrians Reported to
Have Lost 160,000
Men.

RUSSIANS TAKE
90,000 PRISONERS

Petrograd Dispatch Says Hun-
garian Battalion Laid Down
Arms in Rumania.

Petrograd, Sept. 12.—The Russian
troops are drawing nearer the San
River, according to the official an-
nouncement made to-night. The Aus-
trian army is in retreat and is being
closely pursued by the Russians.

Rome, Sept. 12.—News from the Aus-
trian frontier says that the Austrian
army in Galicia is demoralized and
that the efforts of the officers to re-
store confidence are in vain. It is
added that the Austrian soldiers are
in a panic and are fleeing for safety.

Paris, Sept. 12.—A Havas dispatch
from Petrograd says:
"Russian successes are reported
everywhere in the theatre of opera-
tions. Notwithstanding brilliant
efforts of the Hungarian cavalry and
the ability of the Austrians to in-
trench themselves in a clever manner,
the Russians have completely crushed
the bulk of the opposing armies and
are occupying more territory every
day."

"The Russian artillery was so effec-
tive at the bombardment of Nicolaeff,
south of Lvov (Lemberg), that the
Austrian guns were silenced the first
day, whereupon the Austrians began
their evacuation without awaiting an
assault. Russian airmen signalled the
Austrian retreat, and the Russian ar-
tillery and cavalry gallantly dashed
round, cutting them off and inflicting
enormous losses."

An earlier dispatch from Petrograd
said that yesterday's news of the defeat
of the Austrian left wing near Tom-
asheff, Russian Poland, is confirmed.
The Austrians were surrounded in a tri-
angle formed by the Vistula River and
tributary, the San, and the wing was
crushed before the arrival of the Ger-
mans, who came by forced marches to
the aid of the Austrians. Poor and in-
adequate bridges delayed the German
advance and made the defeat of their allies in-
evitable.

The Russians followed up this vic-
tory by pursuing the retreating Aus-
trians twenty miles and taking up posi-
tions in the fortified localities of Gopole
and Toubroie. The Russians suffered
heavy casualties in taking Tomasheff.

The Germans lost heavily when they
were repulsed in the vicinity of Myslanec
and Chortze in Russian Poland, on
the frontier of Prussia.

A Havas dispatch from Petrograd
says it is officially announced that
Russian troops, in pursuit of retreat-
ing Austrians, are approaching the
River San.

London, Sept. 12.—The Russians con-
tinue to strike at the Austrian left in
Galicia and, according to the reports
from Petrograd, they have succeeded
in smashing it. The object in concen-
trating the attack on this wing of the
Austrian army is obvious, for the Rus-
sians have desired more than anything
else at the present time to put the
Austrian army entirely out of the
fight before more German reinforce-
ments could come to its aid.

What remains of the Austrian left
is said to be in the angle between the
Rivers Vistula and San, where the
Russians hope to force a surrender
and dispose of the Austrians. In
addition, with the arrival of the rainy
season a large part of Russian Poland
will be transformed into a marsh, in
which the Germans will find it im-
possible to move.

A Central News dispatch from Rome
says: "A telegram received here by the
'Messenger' from Petrograd states
that the second battle in Galicia re-
sulted even more satisfactorily to the
Russians than the first."

"The losses of the Austrians are es-
timated at 150,000, of whom 90,000 are
prisoners."
Reuter's Petrograd correspondent
telegraphs that German soldiers are at
present in the Gredok district, sixteen
miles from the city.

BELGIANS CUT ARMY
OF GERMANS IN TWO

Reoccupy Malines and Aerschot and Close Enemy's Lines
of Communication—Victories Due to Heavy
Artillery, Used for First Time.

London, Sept. 13.—The Ostend correspondent of the Exchange Tele-
graph Company says:

"The Belgian victory at Cortenberg is very important, as the German
army occupying Belgium has been cut into two sections as a result of it.
The victory was due in a great part to artillery of heavy calibre, which was
used for the first time there."

According to official reports received to-night, the Belgian army is
advancing from the forts around Antwerp. It has apparently divided into
sections and has reoccupied both Aerschot and Malines, where there have
been so many engagements in the last few weeks, and has even got as far
southeast as the battlefields of August, and, coming down on both sides
of what remains of Louvain, has cut communications between Louvain
and Brussels on the west and between Louvain and Tirlemont and Liège
on the southeast. Another army is still harassing the German force, which
is advancing southward to France.

While the Belgians have only about 80,000, it is a mobile force and
can cause trouble to the weakened German army of occupation in Belgium.
The Belgian Legation announced to-day that an extended sortie was
made on September 10, and the Germans everywhere were forced to re-
treat. It was added that the Belgians had destroyed the railway between
Louvain and Tirlemont, thus cutting off the German communications be-
tween Brussels and Liège.

CROWN PRINCE'S ARMY
FORCED FROM HEIGHTS

Germans Compelled to Abandon Strong Position on
Ridge of Argonne—Allies' Cavalry
Proves Its Worth.

By C. INMAN BARNARD.
Paris Correspondent New York Tribune.

Paris, Sept. 12.—The German armies' retreat all along the front was
more decided to-day, as indicated in this afternoon's official communique.

The most significant factor is the fact that the army of the Crown Prince
was compelled to abandon the wooded ridge of the Argonne, which con-
stitutes a sort of Thermopylae of that region.

An extremely encouraging feature to the French is the undoubted
proof that the best Prussian cavalry cannot, squadron to squadron, hold
its own against either British or French cavalry, which is now dealing
fearful execution on Kluck's retreating army.

To-day's news from the front is the most encouraging received in
Paris since the war began. Wounded officers from the lines near Vitry
testify to the superiority of the French field artillery over the German bat-
teries, not only in precision of fire, but in rapidity of evolutions. All say
the Germans fought with the greatest bravery, in spite of their evident
fatigue from over-marching, over-fighting and, above all, unheard of losses.

FRENCH SEIZE ALL BIG
GUNS OF ARMY CORPS

The German Retreat Very Rapid, Aeroplanes Report
—British Troops Follow on Heels of
Retiring Invaders.

London, Sept. 12.—According to official announcement made here this
afternoon the 3d French Army has captured all the artillery of one German
army corps.

The artillery of a German army corps consists of two regiments of
field pieces, eighteen batteries of field guns and six batteries of field
howitzers, a total of seventy-two pieces, one or two batteries of heavy
field artillery and a machine gun group.

"Our aeroplanes report that the enemy's retreat is very rapid," the
announcement said. "Our troops have crossed the River Ourcq and are
moving this (Saturday) morning in rapid pursuit of the enemy."

"Two hundred prisoners were captured. The cavalry of the Allies was
between Soissons and Fismes by last night.

(Soissons is about fifty miles northeast of Paris, and Fismes
is fifteen miles to the east of Soissons.)

"The enemy are retreating north of Vitry-le-Francois."
A dispatch to "The Daily News" from Paris says:

"A motor car brings news from the front that the first and second
divisions of the British army, with the French cavalry and artillery, cut off
and defeated a large force of the enemy, sixty miles northeast of Paris,
taking 6,000 prisoners and fifteen guns. The Germans are reported as
demoralized."

"The half starved prisoners ravenously devoured beef and biscuits
supplied by the British troops."

"During the fight fifty British cyclists from the cover of a small wood
wiped out 150 of the enemy's cavalry."

"The Allies' losses were severe, but they are as nothing in comparison
to those of the enemy, who is now retreating north of the Marne and
west of the Ourcq."

INVADERS EVACUATE
VITRY-LE-FRANCOIS,
PIVOT OF OFFENSIVE

Kaiser's Hosts, After Week-Long Battle,
Fall Back from Naturally Strong
and Well Fortified Position.

LUNEVILLE RETAKEN BY FRENCH

British Cavalry Now Almost as Far North as
Rheims—Imperial Forces on Argonne
Ridge Give Way.

London, Sept. 12.—The German armies, which a
week ago to-day commenced a series of violent attempts to
break through the French centre, have found their efforts
futile, and evacuating Vitry-le-Francois, which was the
pivot of their offensive and where they had fortified already
strong natural positions, have retired northward, with the
Allies in hot pursuit.

A Reuter's dispatch from Paris says that the French
occupied Soissons, fifty miles northeast of Paris, at 6 o'clock
this evening.

The speed with which the northward movement, an-
nounced in earlier official communications to-day, is pro-
gressing is shown by the following dispatch from the
French War Office, issued late to-night:

"The German retreat is very rapid. The pursuit is vig-
orous. The Germans have abandoned many mortars."

"On our left wing the general retreat of the Germans
continues before the French and British forces, which have
reached the lower courses of the Aisne."

"Likewise in the centre the German armies are re-
treating. We have crossed the Marne between Epernay
and Vitry-le-Francois. On our right wing the enemy has
in like manner begun to-day a retiring movement, aban-
doning the region around Nancy. We have reoccupied
Luneville."

The retirement was made imperative by the continued
retreat of the German right wing, which is now somewhere
northwest of Rheims, and the defeat of an army corps which
was operating just east of Vitry-le-Francois, around Re-
vigny and Sermaize, and which, in its hurry to join in the
retirement, left much war material behind for the French
to pick up.

FELL BACK ON ARGONNE DISTRICT.

The Germans in the Argonne district likewise have
begun to fall back, so that the pressure on the forts to the
southwest of Verdun, which a Berlin report said the Ger-
man had commenced to bombard, should be relieved.

In Lorraine, too, the French claim to have won further
successes and to have been enabled to straighten out their
line along that frontier. They have occupied the territory
east of the forest of Champenoux, Gerbeville, Resainviller
and Saint Die, thus getting in closer touch with their troops,
which since the early days of the war have held a bit of Ger-
man territory in front of Colmar.

The progress of the battle of the Marne from its beginning
was described in detail to-night in the following announcement
from the official press bureau:

"A summary, necessarily incomplete, may be attempted of
the operations of the British expeditionary forces and the French
army during the last four days.

"On September 6 the southward advance of the German
right reached the extreme point at Coulommiers and Provins,
cavalry patrols having penetrated even as far south as Nogent-sur-
Seine."

"This movement was covered by a large flank force west
of the line of the River Ourcq, watching the outer Paris defences
and any allied force that might come from them."

"The southward movement of the enemy left his right wing
in a dangerous position, as he had evacuated the Creil-Senlis-Com-
piègne region through which his advance had been pushed."

ALLIES ATTACK EXPOSED WING.

"The Allies attacked this exposed wing both in front and on
the flank on September 8. The covering force was assailed by a
French army based upon the Paris defences and brought to action
on the line between Nanteuil-le-Haudouin and Meaux."

"The main portion of the enemy's right wing was attacked
frontally by the British army, which had been transferred from the

"We Want Peace" Signs
Are Seen in Berlin Streets

Copenhagen, Sept. 12.—An influential Scandinavian who has just
returned from Berlin reports great distress and lack of employment.
Artists, musicians and sculptors are kept by charity, and placards are
posted up at night saying "we want peace."

Deaths and casualties are minimized by the government. A lady who
was informed that her husband was slightly wounded found him with
both arms shot off.